

## POETRY.

## WEEDING.

ALICE DANNER JONES.

While weeding one morn in the garden,  
 Carelessly humming a song,  
 Carelessly weeding it may be.  
 The weeding, at last, went wrong.  
 For there, on the walk beside me,  
 A tiny floweret lay,  
 And I thought of the careless weeding  
 We are all doing each day.  
 Of the heart's rare beautiful flowers,  
 Uprooted, ere sweets expand,  
 Because, for the weeds around them,  
 We reach with a careless hand.  
 'Let the wheat and tares together,  
 Said the Master, 'grow in my field;  
 Until, on the day of my coming,  
 I harvest the richer yield.'  
 The Master knew we were heedless,  
 And, loving his flowers so,  
 Nor wishing to blight one blossom  
 He asked for the weeds to grow.  
 The flower my hands uprooted  
 A tiny-place left bare;  
 Its hidden buds will never burst,  
 And weeds will creep in there.  
 So in the heart's fair garden  
 We pick in careless haste,  
 Then mourn, too late, the poor dead  
 flower,  
 And in the flowerless waste  
 When ripened seeds had grown and  
 bloomed,  
 We see the weeds creep in;  
 They ripen fast, and claim the soil  
 Where flowers should have been.  
 'Tis well within my garden beds,  
 To search for weeds and whin;  
 But is it always well in hearts,  
 To search for growth of sin?  
 Have human eyes the power to see  
 When rootlets interlace?  
 Or can we always tell, how near  
 To flowers the weeds have place?  
 Shall lives be robbed of fragrance,  
 Perchance by you or me?  
 Can we not till the flowers alone  
 And let the weeding be?  
 To One, whose eye can deeper search,  
 Whose hands have defter skill,  
 Who can each coarser growth remove,  
 But leave the flowers still?  
 Think not the Master gardener leaves  
 To us his garden's care,  
 He'll spare his own, 'tis we alone,  
 Who blunder here and there.

## SELECTIONS.

Commit a sin twice, and it will not  
 seem to thee a sin.—*Talmud.*

Men must know that in this theater  
 of man's life it is reserved only  
 for God and angels to be lookers on.  
 —*Lord Bacon.*

There is always hope in a man  
 who actually and earnestly works.  
 In idleness alone is there perpetual  
 despair.—*Curlye.*

A man's honest, earnest opinion  
 is the most precious of all he possesses;  
 let him communicate this, if he  
 is to communicate anything.—*T. Carlyle.*

And there is a sense of touch to be  
 acquired—such a sense as the woman  
 had who had touched the hem of  
 Christ's garment, that wonderful  
 electric touch called faith, which  
 moves the very heart of God.—*Henry  
 Drummond.*

Let no thought of discouragement  
 enter into our souls; let no doubt  
 about final results intrude itself upon  
 our minds; let the work be  
 wrought in God; let faith take hold  
 upon his promises, and let the results  
 be left with him.—*The Safe-guard.*

If you wish to know whether you  
 are a Christian inquire of yourself  
 whether, in and for the love of God,  
 you seek to make happy those about  
 you by smiles and pleasant sayings.  
 Are you a comfortable person to live  
 with? Are you pleasant to have  
 about?—*Gail Hamilton.*

## RAM'S HORN ARROWS.

There is nothing more contagious  
 than example.

Common sense and true religion  
 always harmonize.

The journey to heaven cannot be  
 made in bad company.

No prayers except those the heart  
 speaks are heard in heaven.

Beware of little sins. Mosquitoes  
 drink more blood than lions.

When we refuse to believe God we  
 have no claim upon his promises.

The will of God ought to be the  
 first business of every life, not the  
 second.

The devil's great aim is to make it  
 easy for men to do wrong and hard  
 to do right.

We are all the time making character,  
 whether we are doing anything  
 else or not.

## Our Dead.

BRIDENSTINE.—Sister Sarah B. Bridenstine (nee Stuhart), wife of John Bridenstine, died at her home in Milford, Ind., on Nov. 17th. Her death was very sudden; having prepared dinner in her usual health, while at the table she was taken with a spell of heart trouble which she was subject to, and passed away in a few minutes. She united with the Brethren church at Gravelton, last January, having formerly been a member of the Congregational church. She had never taken a letter from here to Milford, having married and moved there last August. She was the first member the church has lost by death since it was organized, four or five years ago. She had been

married once before, her husband being dead about three years. She was the mother of nine children; seven having died before the father. Two nice girls aged fourteen and five are left to mourn the loss of a loving mother. Sister Bridenstine was born in Peru, Ind., Sept. 17th, 1853, making her 41 years and 2 mos. old at the time of her death. Funeral was held at Grace church, Milford, at 10 A. M., Nov. 19th. Sermon by John Shuckman, of Gravelton, assisted by W. E. Grones, of Milford, from the first clause of Job xiv, and 14. Interment in the Milford cemetery.

WM. DRAKE, Sec.

SMITH.—Died at his home near Unionville, Iowa, Dec. 7th, 1894, at 6 o'clock P. M., Daniel Smith. Bro. Smith was born in Ohio, August 13th, 1828. Was at one time a member of the German Baptist church but was estranged from them by some cause of which we know nothing. His wife is the daughter of Brother Tazwell Gray whom we laid to rest on the first day of July. Thus Sister Smith has been deprived of two dear ones in so short a time.

I was requested to preach his funeral at the Fairview German Baptist church, which is just by the cemetery; and if numbers indicated, any thing the love and esteem for him must have been very great; for I think there were 400 or more in attendance.

He expressed himself as being ready and willing to die. We took as subject, to console and encourage the bereaved ones, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord." May God bring us all to that happy condition.

H. S. ENSLOW.

## CURRENT TOPICS IN THE SCHOOLS.

The suggestion that every teacher, whether in city, village or district school, should strive to interest his pupils in the study of current topics, is an excellent one. The primary object of school instruction is not merely to carry the pupils through so many text-books on so many different subjects, but so to guide their growing minds as to develop the best manhood and womanhood. To accomplish these results, the teacher must go outside the text-books, must put life into his teaching, and must connect the school work with the life and thought of the day, especially the broader thought of the great outside world as yet but known to the pupils in the schools. The first requisite for the successful study of current topics in the schools is a teacher who is himself in sympathy and in contact with the best thought of the day. The next requisite is a journal that can be used as a text-book; one that will furnish the necessary record of events and comment thereon, with a good range and variety of reading. With such a journal, the teacher can make the study of current topics of great benefit, not only to the scholars but to

himself. A weekly journal that fairly presents all sides of every important public question, and that admirably meets the requirements for the study of current topics in the schools, is PUBLIC OPINION, published at Washington, D. C., at \$2.50 per year. A contribution of ten cents apiece from 25 pupils will pay for PUBLIC OPINION for one year, or five cents apiece will pay for it for six months. The weekly issues can be used as text-books in the reading classes, and if preserved and bound they make a valuable addition to or nucleus for a school library. Send for specimen copy.

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